



- ★ Garrisons which supported the Bolsheviks
- ▲ Factories which were pro-Bolshevik and anti-war
- Lenin's route on 6 November: HQ at Smolny Institute

- ① Night of 6 November: first objectives, including main bridges and telegraph station, seized
- ② Day of 7 November: second objectives, including railway stations, seized
- ③ Evening of 7 November: third objectives, including Winter Palace (HQ of Provisional Government) seized

- C Puteinyi Bridge
- D Troitskii Bridge
- E Birzhevoi Bridge
- F Tuchkov Bridge
- G Dvortsovyi Bridge
- H Nicholas Bridge
- I Okhtenskii Bridge
- J Finland Station
- K Nicholas Station
- L Electrical Station
- M Tsarskoye Selo Station
- N Baltic Station
- O Warsaw Station
- P Prison
- Q Smolny Institute
- R Winter Palace
- S Telegraph Station
- T Head Post Office
- U State Bank

The November Revolution in Petrograd

army said it would support the Bolsheviks, and the guards of the Peter and Paul Fortress gave all the rifles in the fortress to the Bolsheviks.

By the night of 6 November the Red Guards were well armed with the rifles from the Peter and Paul Fortress, and they were ready for action. During the night they began to take control of all the most important locations in Petrograd. You can see where they were on the map above. First they took control of six bridges across the river Neva. Then, in the morning of 7 November, they seized government buildings, the power station and the railway stations.

The Provisional Government had its headquarters in the **Winter Palace** and was guarded only by army cadets and the Women's Battalion of the army. In the

evening of 7 November a cruiser, the **Aurora**, which Bolshevik sailors had captured, sailed up the river Neva and fired blank shells at the Winter Palace. Later the guns in the Peter and Paul fortress also opened fire on the Palace. Then the Red Guards stormed the Winter Palace. The Cadets and the Women's Battalion gave in without a fight. The ministers of the Provisional Government surrendered and were taken away under arrest.

The Bolsheviks now controlled Petrograd, the capital of Russia. The next day Lenin announced that he was setting up a new government. The Bolsheviks had come to power after a single day of rebellion in which eighteen people had been arrested and two people had been killed.

THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION OF NOVEMBER 1917

During September and October 1917 Kerensky and the Provisional Government gradually lost their authority. Peasants in the countryside rebelled, soldiers in the army refused to fight the Germans, and Bolshevik workers in the cities got ready for a second revolution.

The state of Russia in September 1917

During the summer of 1917 peasants began to take control of the land on which they grew their food. They had been waiting since March for the Provisional Government to give them land, but it had failed to do so. On more than 2000 farms peasants killed their landlords and divided the land up among themselves. In other areas they seized the lands of the Tsar.

Kerensky tried to stop the peasants from grabbing land by sending soldiers on 'punishment expeditions' into the countryside. Several expeditions went out, whipping peasants and burning their homes. But Kerensky could not find enough loyal troops to do this dirty work for him, so in most areas the violence between landlords and peasants continued.

The violence in the countryside delayed the harvest on many farms, and this led to food shortages. As you know, Russia was already desperately short of food, so now people faced the winter with the threat of famine.

In the army discipline was breaking down. The Petrograd Soviet's Order No. 1 in March had already led many soldiers to disobey orders given by their

officers. Now, thousands of soldiers were deserting from the army every week, mostly to go back to their villages to make sure they got their fair share of land. In the front lines Bolsheviks encouraged soldiers to lay down their weapons and to give up fighting. Everywhere in the army there was drunkenness, chaos and violence. In many parts of the front line soldiers amused themselves by rolling live hand grenades into their officers' quarters. In October the Army General Headquarters admitted in a report that

'The army is simply a huge, weary, shabby and ill-fed mob of angry men united by their common thirst for peace and by common disappointment.'

The November Revolution

In October 1917 Lenin returned to Petrograd from his hiding place in Finland. At a Bolshevik meeting he said that they should begin a revolution immediately. He said:

'Hunger does not wait. The peasant uprising does not wait. The war does not wait.'

The Bolshevik leaders agreed to stage an armed uprising against the Provisional Government. Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik chairman of the Petrograd Soviet, drew up the plans and set up headquarters in the **Smolny Institute**, a disused school.

Trotsky did not have to make his plans in secret because there was nothing Kerensky and the Provisional Government could do to stop him. The

Soldiers of the Women's Battalion on parade outside the Winter Palace in 1917

